

ABSTRACT

A vaccine is disclosed which is useful for protecting a host from Gram negative infections and the effects of endotoxin, therefore preventing sepsis and septic shock. The vaccine is prepared by combining LPS free or in conjugate form with a stoichiometric excess of a peptide of the formula:

- (a) $(A)_n$ wherein A is Lysine or Arginine and n is an integer with a minimum value of 7;
- (b) $(AB)_m$ wherein A is Lysine or Arginine and B is a hydrophobic amino acid selected from the group consisting of Valine, Leucine, Isoleucine, Tyrosine, Phenylalanine and Tryptophan; m is an integer with a minimum value of 3; and
- (c) $(ABC)_p$ wherein A is a cationic amino acid which is Lysine or Arginine; B and C are hydrophobic amino acids which may be the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of Valine, Leucine, Isoleucine, Tyrosine, Phenylalanine and Tryptophan; p is an integer with a minimum value of 2.

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